

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet, which includes Fig. 4, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-14 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1, 2 and 4 are amended and Claim 3 is cancelled by the present amendment. Support for amendments to the claims can found in the disclosure as originally filed, for example, in Figure 17 and page 74, line 25 to page 75, line 13. Thus, no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to as including informalities; the title was objected to as including informalities; Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kokubo (U.S. Pat. No. 6,969,622); and Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kokubo in view of Naoi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,168,442); and Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Naoi in view of Nakano (U.S. Pat. No. 5,555,422) and Burdelaide (U.S. Pat. No. 5,109,320).

With respect to the objection to the drawings, Applicants respectfully submit that Figure 4 has been corrected to include the reference indicators T1 and T2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

With respect to the objection to the title, Applicants respectfully submit that the title has been amended to overcome the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite, Claim 4 has been amended to remove the language which was indicated as unclear in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

request that the rejection of Claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Addressing now the rejections of Claims 1-14 under §102 and §103 as anticipated/unpatentable over Kokubo, Naoi, Nakano and Burdelaïse, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Amended Claim 1 recites,

An anisotropically conductive connector comprising:  
elastic anisotropically conductive films each having a functional part, in which a plurality of conductive parts for connection containing conductive particles and extending in a thickness-wise direction of the film have been arranged in a state mutually insulated by an insulating part,

wherein assuming that a thickness of the conductive parts for connection in the functional part of the elastic anisotropically conductive film is T1 and a thickness of the insulating part in the functional part is T2, a ratio (T2/T1) is at least 0.9, and

wherein a first surface of the functional part of the elastic anisotropically conductive film is flat, the flat surface contacting a subject to be inspected, and in a second surface of the functional part of the elastic anisotropically conductive film, the conductive part for connection is formed as a projected part.

Claim 2 recites similar features with regard to the first and second surfaces of the functional part of the elastic anisotropically conductive film.

Kokubo describes an anisotropically conductive connector in which a functional part 21 has a first surface with conductive parts 22 which are in protruded parts 24 and a second surface in which the conductive parts 22 are also in protruded parts 24.

In contrast, in Claim 1, the first surface of the functional part of the elastic anisotropically conductive film is flat, the flat surface contacting a subject to be inspected. This feature is not described or suggested in Kokubo at least because Kokubo describes in Figure 4 that both sides of the function part 21 have protruded parts 24.

Noai describes an anisotropic conductivity sheet which includes an insulative portion 8 and a conductive portion 12. However, Noai does not describe or suggest a first surface of the functional part of the elastic anisotropically conductive film is flat, the flat surface contacting a subject to be inspected, and in a second surface of the functional part of the elastic anisotropically conductive film, the conductive part for connection is formed as a projected part. In addition, the combination of Figure 20 of Kokubo and Noai does not cure the deficiencies of Noai considered individually with respect to this feature. Further, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Kokubo and Noai to achieve the features of the claimed invention.

In addition, none of the further cited Nakano and Burdelaïse references cure the above noted deficiencies of Kokubo and Noai with respect to the claimed invention.

In addition, the claimed invention provides at least the significant advantage over devices such as those described in Kokubo, Noai, Nakano and Burdelaïse because in the claimed invention the anisotropically conductor connector exhibits high durability as a result of the fact that the surface which repeatedly comes into contact with the subject to be inspected is flat. Further, the claimed invention also exhibits high conductivity because the conductive part used for connection on the other side is formed as a projected part in order to mitigate the effects of deformation. These advantages are not found in the devices of Kokubo, Noai, Nakano and Burdelaïse as none of these references describes or suggests a device with a structure equivalent to the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 2, and claims depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over Kokubo, Noai, Nakano and Burdelaïse considered individually or in combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/07)

James Love  
Registration No. 58,421

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